

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 BIB-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

IGA-01 L-02 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 /078 W

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R 281125Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3369

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0332

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: FNLA BUYS PAPER AND TV STATION

1. IN THE PAST WEEK FNLA HAS ASSUMED CONTROL OF ANGOLA'S FORMERLY LEADING NEWSPAPER, A PROVINCIA, AS WELL AS AN EMBRYONIC TELEVISION STATION, TVA.

2. PROVINCIA WAS PURCHASED THROUGH RUI CORREIA FREITAS, A WHITE BUSINESSMAN WHO HAD BEEN THE EDITOR OF THE PAPER UNTIL OCTOBER, 1974, WHEN HE WAS FORCED TO FLEE FROM ANGOLA TO SOUTH AFRICA BECAUSE HE WAS IMPLICATED IN A WHITE POLITICAL PARTY'S (PCDA) PLAN FOR A COUP IN ANGOLA. FREITAS, WHO OWNED A FEW PERCENT OF THE PAPER IN HIS OWN NAME, WAS BROUGHT BACK FROM RSA IN FEBRUARY BY FNLA WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT HE WOULD BE THEIR MEDIA DIRECTOR. HE ENGINEERED THE PURCHASE OF PROVINCIA FROM ITS MAJORITY OWNER WITH MONEY FROM EITHER WHITE COFFEE GROWERS WHO ARE BANKROLLING FNLA OR FNLA ITSELF.

3. FREITAS RETURNED AS EDITOR OF A PROVINCIA ON MARCH 23 AND FORCED THE PAPER TO TAKE A PRO-FNLA LINE. HE HAD TOLD A CONGEN OFFICER THAT HE WOULD NEVER MOVE THE PAPER THAT FAR PUBLICLY, AS IT WOULD UNDERMINE CREDIBILITY, BUT THE PAPER HAS ABANDONED ANY PRETENSE OF OBJECTIVITY IN ITS REPORTING,
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AND HEWS TO A STRAIGHT PRO-FNLA AND VIRULENT ANTI-MPLA LINE.

FREITAS IS ACCOMPANIED AT ALL TIMES BY FNLA BODYGUARDS. PROVINCIA STILL PUBLISHES THE PLETHORA OF COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY MPLA BUT IN ITS ONLY STORY ON THE CURRENT WAVE OF VIOLENCE IT REPORTED FAITHFULLY FNLA'S SIDE OF THE STORY, FOR WHICH IT RECIEVED AN 8 DAY SUSPENSION.

4. FNLA ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING IT HAD PURCHASED OWNERSHIP OF TELEVISAO DE ANGOLA (TVA), AN OUTFIT THAT LOST OUT IN THE COMPETITION LAST YEAR TO BE ANGOLA'S ONLY TV STATION. FNLA WILL CHANGE THE STATION NAME TO FNLA-TV AND ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WOULD BE BROADCASTING WITHIN A FEW MONTHS. THEY HOPE TO DISTRIBUTE TV SETS TO BLACK GHETTOES AROUND LUANDA. FNLA WILL TRY TO GET THE GOVERNMENT TO PURCHASE THE SETS.
KILLORAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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